

Newport Freedom of Information Response October 2012

1/ How many School Attendance Orders has the authority served in the past 12 months?

We have only served 1 School Attendance Order in the past 12 months, but parent complied by stage 2.

2/ Does the authority have a named contact within the authority who is familiar with home education policy and practice and who has an understanding of the relevant legislation and a range of educational philosophies?

Val Davies (Senior Education Welfare Officer) is the contact within the authority familiar with the home education policy.

3/ If yes, to question 2/ could you please supply me with details of the named contact?

Val's details are - Val Davies, Senior Education Welfare Officer, Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR

4/ Does the authority send information to parents through the post?

We send a standard letter out to parents when they send out a request to electively home educate their child. The letter is signed by the Pupil Services Manager.

5/ If yes to question 4/ could you please give examples of the type of information which the authority has sent in the past 12 months?

- The letter states that there are no set guidelines as to what subjects a pupil electively home educated is taught, and although it provides advice with regards to how pupils concerned could be taught (for instance the structure and format of home education - following a fixed timetable and a traditional curriculum, taking into account the needs of the child), it also outlines that these are not requirements, giving further examples of what is also not required.

- The letter also outlines that there is no requirement for children to take particular qualifications, but states that the local authority will offer advice and support if asked. It also states that the cost would not be required to be met by the authority.

- If the child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, it states that the local authority has a duty to ensure that the child's needs are met. The LA will monitor to ensure that the parent/guardian is making suitable provision to meet the child's needs, which are highlighted in the Statement, whilst the Statement remains in force.

- Finally, the letter states that the authority will be in touch to arrange for a welfare visit to take place six months later to ensure the child is receiving a suitable education.

6/ Does the authority make contact with home educating families on an annual basis in order to seek a meeting or request an updated report?

Welfare checks are made once a year.

7/ Does the authority offer any support to home educating families?

No.

8/ If yes to question 7/ could you please give examples of the type of support offered in the past 12 months?

N/A

9/ In relation to the guidance issued by Estyn in 2010, does the authority provide helpful guidance for parents educating their children at home when requested to do so?

No.

10/ How many children in elective home education residing in your area have a statement of special educational needs?

We have 2 children on record with a statement receiving Elective Home Education.

11/ Does the authority have a formal policy or protocol document regarding children who are educated at home and who have special educational needs, or additional learning needs?

Yes - All Wales Attendance Framework pg 339-345 Section 6 Inclusion & Pupil Support Guidance.